



State of California
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Inquiry: Are there guidelines within the scope of Respiratory Care Practitioner regulations addressing venous blood draws?

Response: The intent of the practice act recognizes the existence of overlapping functions between physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, physical therapists, respiratory care practitioners, and other licensed health care personnel to permit additional sharing of functions within organized health care systems (3701, Article 1, General Provisions). This provision is not specific to respiratory functions and was intended to allow greater functionality within the licensed health care facility. Because of this provision, the functions associated with venous blood draws would qualify as an overlapping function and is considered acceptable.

The licensed health care facility determines what procedures they will allow their licensed practitioners to perform. That discretion applies not only to respiratory care practitioners, but rather to all licensed practitioners employed by that facility.

With regards to training of personnel on overlapping functions, the onus is on the organized health care system to determine and institute appropriate training and competencies that would provide this function in a manner that would be safe when administered to the public.

Reference # 2003-C-12